

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 952

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

FROM VANCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UN, MX

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND): MEXICAN
CANDIDACY FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF NEXT SESSION

REF: GENEVA 1054

1. SUMMARY. MEXICAN DELEGATION IS REQUESTING SUPPORT OF U.S. AND OTHER DELEGATIONS FOR CANDIDACY OF MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CHAIRMANSHIP NEXT SESSION CND. MEXICAN ASPIRATIONS CONTRAVENE TRADITIONAL PROCEDURES CND AND ARE LIKELY END IN EMBARRASSMENT FOR GOM AND POSSIBLE STRAIN ON US/MEXICAN NARCOTICS CONTROL COOPERATION. WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT SUGGEST AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY TAKE UP PROBLEM WITH APPROPRIATE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. US MISSION AND SEVERAL CND DELEGATIONS HAVE RECEIVED NOTE DATED FEB. 18 FROM PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO IN GENEVA PRESENTING CANDIDACY OF DR. PEDRO OJEDA-PAULLADA, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MEXICO, FOR PRESIDENCY (SIC) OF 1976 SESSION OF CND. NOTE DESCRIBES HIS QUALIFICATIONS AND CONCLUDES (PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH): "MY GOVERNMENT HOPES TO

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RECEIVE THE VALUABLE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF YOUR

EXCELLENCY FOR THE SAID CANDIDACY TO WHICH MY GOVERNMENT ATTACHES THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE".

3. UPON LEARNING OF NOTE, WE EXPLAINED AGAIN TO BARONA LOBATO, AS WE HAD EXPLAINED TO HIM DURING DISCUSSION DESCRIBED REFTEL, UNWRITTEN RULES WHICH HAVE GOVERNED SELECTION OF COMMISSION'S OFFICERS FOR DECADES. THESE PROVIDE THAT CANDIDATES ARE PROPOSED FOR OFFICES IN INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, NOT AS GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, BY STEERING COMMITTEE OF SENIOR CND OFFICIALS TO WHOM CANDIDATES ARE WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN PERSONALLY. PROCEDURE GENERALLY INVOLVES ELECTION TO LOWEST OFFICE, RAPPORTEUR, AND PROMOTION BY ELECTION AT SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS TO HIGHER OFFICES, NAMELY, 2ND VICE-CHAIRMAN, 1ST VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND FINALLY, CHAIRMAN. (SHOULD VACANCY OCCUR, IT IS FILLED BY ADVANCING NEXT JUNIOR OFFICERS TO FILL, LEAVING LOWER OFFICES VACANT AND AVAILABLE FOR ELECTION NEW OFFICERS.) CASTRO Y CASTRO FOLLOWING THIS PROCEDURE HAD BECOME 2ND VICE-CHAIRMAN LAST YEAR.

4. OUR FIRST IMPRESSION ON LEARNING OF MEXICAN INITIATIVE WAS THAT MEXICAN DELEGATION WAS CONFUSED OVER NATURE OF STATEMENTS BY FRENCH AND U.S. DELEGATIONS (REFTEL PARA 3), EXPRESSING INTENT TO SUPPORT CASTRO Y CASTRO TO THE CND BUREAU HOPEFULLY UPON HIS RETURN TO CND NEXT YEAR. THAT INTENT COULD BE EFFECTUATED BY ELECTING CASTRO Y CASTRO TO POSITION OF RAPPORTEUR, OR POSSIBLY TO POSITION OF 2ND VICE-CHAIRMAN SHOULD REXED, PRESENT 2ND VICE-CHAIRMAN NOT PARTICIPATE NEXT YEAR. (MR. SMITH, PRESENT RAPPORTEUR, WOULD ADVANCE TO 1ST VICE-CHAIRMAN AND PROF. BABAYAN, PRESENT 1ST VICE-CHAIRMAN, WOULD BECOME CHAIRMAN.) SHOULD PROF. BABAYAN RETURN TO NEXT SESSION, WE PERCEIVE NO POSSIBILITY OF HIS AGREEING TO HAVE HIS NORMAL ADVANCE TO CHAIRMAN INTERCEPTED BY MEXICAN CANDIDATE, NOR OF STEERING COMMITTEE AGREEING TO ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN WHO HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY PARTICIPATED AS OFFICER OF CND.

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5. DISCUSSIONS WITH MEXICAN DELEGATION INDICATED GOM DID NOT MISUNDERSTAND TRADITIONAL PROCEDURES, BUT RATHER CHOSE TO IGNORE THEM. DEL SAID PRESIDENT OF MEXICO HAD DECIDED HIS ATTORNEY GENERAL WOULD BE MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVE TO CND NEXT YEAR AND WOULD RUN FOR CHAIRMAN. WE THEREUPON POINTED OUT THAT CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS DO NOT ATTEND CND SESSIONS AND THAT, IF ELECTED AN OF-

FICER, HE WOULD HAVE TO ATTEND SESSIONS FULL TWO WEEKS. LATTER POINT APPEARED DISCOURAGE MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVE BUT HE REPORTED IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION THAT HE HAD RECHECKED, HE ASSERTED, ALL THE WAY TO PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, WHO APPROVED ATTORNEY GENERAL REMAINING AT NEXT SESSION CND FULL TWO WEEKS.

6. WE THEREUPON POINTED OUT TO MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVE THAT WHATEVER EFFORTS U.S. OR MEXICO MIGHT EXERT TO ACHIEVE CHAIRMANSHIP FOR MEXICO NEXT SESSION, THERE WOULD BE NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS. WE NOTED U.S. ONLY ONE MEMBER OF 12 MEMBER STEERING COMMITTEE, SOME OF WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED ANTAGONISM TO CONCEPT AND OTHERS LIKELY TO, AND USSR WOULD HOLD FAST TO ITS TRADITIONAL EXPECTATIONS.

7. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO SUGGEST TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY THAT AMBASSADOR TAKE UP MATTER AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL OF FOREIGN OFFICE AND PERHAPS DISCUSS WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL IN EFFORT TO DISSUADE GOM FROM PERSISTING IN COURSE OF ACTION WHICH IS LIKELY RESULT IN EMBARRASSMENT AND CONSEQUENTLY CLOUD EXCELLENT US/MEXICAN COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS CONTROL MATTERS. DALE

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